

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 270115

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: MILLS-BOGGS MEMCON

REF: STATE 269672

THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION DATED
NOVEMBER 7 BETWEEN JOHN MILLS AND MIKE BOGGS, ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AFL-
CIO IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH
ACTION REQUESTED IN REFTEL.

MIKE BOGGS INVITED ME FOR LUNCH TO DISCUSS THE ILO.
WHEN I ASKED BOGGS WHAT WE SHOULD DO NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT
HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW, HE DID NOT HESITATE TO RESPOND IN
SPECIFIC TERMS. BOGGS SAID THAT THE ONLY WAY HE SEES FOR
THE U.S. TO RETURN TO THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE THROUGH A
SPECIAL ILO CONFERENCE TO APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE COM-
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MITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
WHICH FAILED FOR LACK OF A QUORUM AT THE 1977 CONFERENCE,
BUT WAS IN EFFECT REJECTED. BOGGS RECOGNIZED THAT A SPECIAL
CONFERENCE FOR THIS PURPOSE WOULD INVOLVE A HIGH RISK. WHEN
ASKED WHY THIS COULD NOT BE DONE AT THE REGULAR JUNE 1978
CONFERENCE, BOGGS RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD THEN BE TOO LATE.
IF THE US DOES NOT ATTEND THAT CONFERENCE AS A MEMBER WE WILL

LOSE- OUT IN THE ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE NEXT THREE-YEAR TERM. IN HIS VIEW, ONCE THIS HAPPENS, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE THAT WE WOULD EVER RETURN TO THE ILO. HE SAID, INCIDENTAL- LY, THAT IRVING BROWN WILL NOT RESIGN HIS CURRENT POSITION AS A WORKER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GB. HE SIMPLY WILL NOT SHOW UP FOR THE MEETINGS.

BOGGS SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT SOME SORT OF BARGAIN WOULD HAVE TO BE STRUCK WITH THE G-77 ON THE STRUCTURE QUESTION. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE SAID IN RETROSPECT A MISTAKE HAD BEEN MADE IN INSISTING THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIVES BE PRO- SCRIBED FROM NEGOTIATING ON THIS ISSUE. BOGGS DID NOT INDICATE WHAT BOTTOM LINE OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE THE AFL-CIO MIGHT AGREE TO, BUT HE AGREED THAT THIS IS AN URGENT QUESTION FOR CLC CONSIDERATION.

BOGGS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. SHOULD TAKE AN OPEN AND LEADING ROLE NOW THAT WE HAVE LEFT THE ILO. THIS TYPE OF LEADERSHIP MUST COME FROM MEMBERS, HE SAID. BOGGS SUGGESTED THAT JOE MORRIS -- THE CANADIAN WORKER DELEGATE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY -- MIGHT TAKE THE LEAD. IT WILL THEREFORE BE IMPORTANT TO SEE WHETHER THE CURRENT GOVERNING BODY MEETING PRODUCES ANY INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE "REJECTED" REPORT.
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BOGGS AGREED THAT THE US NEEDS URGENTLY TO DEFINE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH IT WILL RETURN TO THE ILO AND THAT THIS MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT A CLC MEETING SHOULD BE CALLED TO DO THIS. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO KNOW THE RESULTS OF THE CURRENT GB MEETING BEFOREHAND, BUT THE SCHEDULED AFL-CIO ANNUAL MEETING IN DECEMBER WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR LABOR REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE CLC MEETING AFTER ABOUT NOVEMBER 22. CONSEQUENTLY, IF A CLC MEETING IS TO BE SCHEDULED BEFORE JANUARY, IT SHOULD BE ARRANGED RIGHT AWAY.

BOGGS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO REVIVE THE INFORM- AL INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP ON THE ILO TO COMPLEMENT THE CLC AND CARRY OUT ITS POLICY GUIDELINES. HE BELIEVES WE NEED MORE COMMUNICATION AT THE WORKING LEVEL AND THE WORK- ING GROUP COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS.

BOGGS SAID THE AFL-CIO DOES NOT AGREE THAT UNDP FUNDS CON- TRIBUTED BY THE US SHOULD BE USED BY THE ILO. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE PRACTICABLE TO EARMARK SUCH FUNDS TO PREVENT THIS, BUT THAT THE US SHOULD REDUCE ITS UNDP

APPROPRIATION BY THE AMOUNT THAT THE ILO RECEIVES. BOGGS
EMPHASIZED THAT AFL-CIO DOES NOT THINK THAT UNDP FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE EFFORTS ARE VERY EFFECTIVE VANCE

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